

27 January 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

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FROM :

SUBJECT : Report on Completion of Vietnam Orientation No. 12

1. Basic Data

Vietnam Orientation No. 12 wound up with [REDACTED] students in attendance. It was conducted in G A 13 at Headquarters on 10-12 and 17-19 January 1967.

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2. Highlights

- a. The Orientation ran 6 days, 1 day longer than has been the case. There has always been the need for lengthening the program, but numerous administrative factors on the FE end and space complications on our own have hitherto militated against expansion. On the present occasion all things made a 6th day possible; and at this writing, the same situation will hold for the February program.
- b. The extra day made possible the introduction of a new block of orientation: briefings on U.S. Government agencies in Saigon by representatives of those agencies. In the previous Orientation in December we did have one outsider, Mr. William Marsh of the Department of State. This time we again had him and added the following: Mr. Jerome T. French of the Agency for International Development, Lt. Col. W. H. Tyler of U.S. Army Special Forces, and Lt. Col. John C. Scharfen of the U.S. Marine Corps. These men were well received by our group. Their presentations gave us all a more accurate, because of more comprehensive, view of the total American effort being made in South Vietnam. As it was, of course, we did not have any outside speakers - because of lack of time - to talk to us of the Army, the Air Force, or the Navy in Vietnam. The need for such presentations is a major argument, in my opinion, for lengthening the Orientation.

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- c. Another new feature in the program was our first discussion of "The Soviet Angle in Vietnam." This was given by [REDACTED] of the School of International Communism. I asked one particularly articulate student why he hadn't asked any questions, and his two-fold answer was, "well, he covered everything so well, and then...it was time for lunch!"

### 3. Critiques

I tend here to write of the criticisms and those suggestions for improvement rather than to repeat the many favorable comments found in the critiques. The latter are far more numerous than the former and show that the Orientation is serving its purpose most satisfactorily. However, we build with bricks rather than bouquets!

First is the subject of repetition. Five critiques felt there was a slight amount; and yet almost as many marveled at the lack of it. I think there was some in two cases; in the review of recent history of South Vietnam, a subject which was touched upon by three different people as background to their own presentations; and, then, in the discussion of "revolutionary development cadres", probably because it is a currently "hot" subject. This is no problem.

Second several people expressed interest in hearing more about the daily routine in Vietnam, living conditions and support facilities. The subject was covered in three hours - two lectures and the final panel on personnel matters; there is also plenty of opportunity for students to ask questions of the speakers, most of whom have served in Vietnam and are quite happy to speak on the subject. In some ways, the students have understandably insatiable desires for experiencing Vietnam before they reach the place! Even so, I think we can accommodate them a bit more satisfactorily than may have been the case in the past.

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[REDACTED]

Chief, Orientation and  
Briefing Faculty

#### Attachments

Vietnam Orientation No. 12 Schedule  
Student Roster

#### Distribution:

Orig - Addressee - Return to OBF  
1 - R/TR/AIB

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